

15 October 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

1. On Tuesday afternoon, October 12th, I conferred with [REDACTED] of the Security Office, and [REDACTED] the Agency Classification Control Officer, in regard to the proposed regulation from the [REDACTED] "Classification of Official Information."

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2. This proposed regulation was substantially rewritten in this office when it came through for coordination. The rewrite was of an editorial nature including corrections in incorrect grammar, amalgamation of some subjects with others, added specificity where thought necessary, etc. The [REDACTED] wished to discuss those changes with which, for one reason or another, they were in disagreement.

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3. Immediately it became apparent that the discussions would be quite lengthy and that we would be discussing matters of form rather than those of substance. As there has been no strictly legal objection to the regulations as originally written; and I could see no point in arguing the merits of this or that grammatical or editorial change, I suggested to them that they go ahead and rewrite the regulation embodying those of my changes which they deemed acceptable and not incorporating those with which they disagreed. However, also I requested that the rewrite be run by this office for a second perusal from the legal standpoint prior to its being sent to press. These suggestions were accepted and I was told that we would get another look at the regulation prior to its issuance.

4. In passing, I question the merit of that dispensation under which the office responsible for the origination of a regulation, and presumably the one knowing more about its subject-matter than any other, isn't clothed with the authority to accept or reject suggestions of its own motion without having to confer with each individual suggestor.

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[REDACTED]
Office of the General Counsel